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DHS LAUNCHES FIRE CORPS PROGRAM

Washington, DC – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced the launch of the Fire Corps program, which will support fire departments across the country by leveraging community volunteer efforts to handle non-emergency activities. Actively involving citizens in a non-emergency role will enable highly trained fire service personnel to focus more fully on acute emergency tasks. What's more, citizen advocates will help expand educational outreach to all residents about ways in which they can help protect themselves, their families, and their communities from fire hazards. Fire Corps will also educate fire departments and fire service organizations on how to involve citizens in these non-emergency activities.

As a Program Partner of President George W. Bush's grass-roots initiative Citizen Corps, Fire Corps will work through local Citizen Corps Councils across the country to offer citizens education, training, and volunteer opportunities. Fire Corps is a partnership between The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer Combination Officers Section (VCOS), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the Department of Homeland Security's US Fire Administration and Office of State and Local Government Preparedness and Coordination.

"By partnering with the fire community to create Fire Corps, we will offer citizens in every neighborhood across America an opportunity to support their local firehouse," said Secretary Ridge. "Citizen volunteers can have an impact in a variety of ways. Some may choose to spread the word about fire prevention or

educate the community on fire safety or help with routine administrative tasks. But all in choosing to

serve will give firefighters more time and resources to pursue their critical, highly skilled responsibilities on the front lines of emergency response -- where they are needed most."

Fire Corps volunteer activities may include assisting fire department personnel with administrative duties, performing education and outreach efforts to encourage fire safety and prevention, supporting CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training in emergency preparedness and basic response techniques, and other non-suppression activities unique to rural and urban areas.

"Through Fire Corps, Americans will have new opportunities to strengthen their communities by assisting their local fire departments," said Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps Desiree T. Sayle. "As Fire Corps members serve in firehouses across the country, they will be serving vital community interests and enabling more firefighters to become more available for front-line duty. Fire Corps is helping to fulfill the President's Call to Service for all Americans to make volunteering an important part of our lives."

"Across this nation, we are keenly aware of people with a strong desire to serve their communities and contribute their time and skills to support homeland security, and in particular their local firefighters," said Chief R. David Paulison, U.S. Fire Administrator, Department of Homeland Security. "When firefighters can stand side by side with citizens in promoting fire prevention and general safety efforts, and are able to invite citizens to assist with non emergency responsibilities, the overall security and safety of their community is greatly enhanced."

At the launch event, Fire Corps also acknowledged Jeff Thorp, who joined Fire Corps as the program's first registered volunteer. During the event, Mr. Thorp was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award for his dedication and support to Fire Corps. Mr. Thorp is supporting the Dunn Loring Virginia Fire

Department and has already devoted more than 170 hours of volunteer service in FY04. Prior to the launch event, Fire Corps hosted its first meeting of the Fire Corps National Committee. The Committee brings together fire service organizations to help provide strategic direction for the Fire Corps program. The Committee also serves as the Fire Service Subcommittee of the National Citizen Corps Council.

"The Fire Corps program will play a vital role in involving citizens in fire safety training, education, and volunteer service programs," said Matt Mayer, Chief of Staff for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness. "With Fire Corps joining the Citizen Corps network, the Department of Homeland Security will be able to provide communities with a more comprehensive approach to involving everyone in hometown security."

Fire Corps is coordinated nationally by the National Volunteer Fire Council and is a Program Partner of Citizen Corps, the Department of Homeland Security's grass-roots effort to actively involve everyone in making communities across America safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps is a vital component of USA Freedom Corps, President George W. Bush's effort to encourage volunteer service and promote a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility. Please visit www.firecorps.org to learn more about Fire Corps. Please visit www.citizencorps.gov to learn more about Citizen Corps.

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY GARY ZULINSKI

Hope everyone had a joyous Holiday season and are well rested for the work to be done in 2005.

If most of you have not seen the 2005 DHS Grant Guidelines are out. The guidelines are sent out to all states. It lays the groundwork for the states to follow. For all local communities it is informational only. Local communities will be notified by the state as to what grants are available and when to apply. Citizen Corps will likewise be notified in the not too distant future. It is a must to read so all communities are working together with the state and federal initiatives.

The December Michigan Citizen Corps meeting was the best ever. It was held at Hockeytown Café and many were in attendance. Several Citizen Corps members who answered the call and responded for the hurricane relief were in attendance and we heard from some of their experiences.

Michigan Citizen Corps is looking to some great things happening in 2005. The CERT training of the Staff at the Major League Sports arenas, the TEEN SERT program, and the roll out of the Arabic translation of the CERT program.

With the reduced funding for Citizen Corps funding nationally, Michigan Citizen Corps is looking to providing more service to the local councils. Some ideas have been a statewide conference, monthly conference calls, and public service announcement statewide to get the word out. and a listserv so councils can exchange ideas and best practices. We at Michigan Citizen Corps are looking to offer the most for what grant dollars we are receiving. If you have some other ideas please send them to me.

I have had numerous inquiries concerning the recent tsunamis which struck Southeast Asia. International disaster relief is handled by the State Department. FEMA is not handling any of the relief effort for the tsunamis. I want to thank all those you have requested information. The best way we can assist is to contribute to and support our partners who are active in relief efforts such as the RED CROSS and other international relief organizations.

I end this with a recent email I received from Dan Mulhern, the State of Michigan's First Gentleman:

READING FOR LEADING

A Weekly Stimulant for those Who Lead
By Dan Granholm Mulhern
State of Michigan's First Gentleman

Friends,

Here's my thought for a happy new year: trade in a resolution for an aspiration!

I was talking to a friend over the holidays. He's looking to buy or start a business. I asked if he would take a major step this year. He said in a kind of wistful way: "I've probably been talking about going out on my own since I first met you [around

1985]." He trailed off, "I just don't know." I knew the honest self-doubt I heard in his voice. For I have been talking about and working towards writing a book for almost all the time my friend has been talking about and working towards owning his own business. As we move into midlife it is easy to wonder: How long will I have credibility saying I will do something great? For how many more new year's days will we be able to maintain credibility with others, and more importantly, credibility with ourselves?

There's a time and a place for resolutions, for great resolve, for being resolute. Maybe in June, or March, or maybe by next week. But aspiration precedes resolution. Aspire, from the Latin spirare: "to breathe," the same Latin root that gives us "spirit." To reach a big dream, it takes openness to spirit -- something invisible, something bigger than you, something harder to contain or to predict, a breeze, a chance, the full blown gust that finally launches a kite skyward after countless lurches upward that ended with straight down dives to the beach. My friend's got to let the dream live, give it some breath, give it some slack, feel the tugs on the line and let it out. When you aspire you see other kites and believe yours can fly. You trust that with the right wind -- and, sure, maybe some hard running into it -- your kite can lift and soar. But you have to be open to that breath, to the signs, to the whispers of the wind.

As you get older, 365 days go a whole lot faster, don't they? So, it's vital to not squander the fantastic opportunity that NEW YEAR'S! brings, to think about getting way up. Sure you can get resolved, and resolutions have their place to get you into shape, to eat better, to be nicer, to communicate more, to make more money. But resolutions begin with teeth gritting, and so often give way to a cycle of trial and defeat, guilt and self-castigation. When we are talking about dreams, about big possibilities, major shifts in life, career, relationships, I doubt that resolutions often give what we need to trust the wind towards any real heights. We have to give ourselves over to something deeper within.

So, where MIGHT you be, when you open "Reading for Leading" on January 3, 2006? What big dream have you toyed with, to which you might give yourself over? How much will you have allowed yourself to breathe new life, and to give your dreams

voice, to trust them with a spouse, friends, coaches? Will you let yourself imagine where you might be, how high you might get that kite? I invite you, as a coach once challenged me, "When would you like to be (in my dream:) gone from your organization? At the end of this year?" I know when I said, "yes, this year," things started to happen, the dream had a life of its own. Is there a dream you have that you might want to say, "Yes. By the end of this year!"

Have a spirit-filled new year!

Dan

Reading for Leading is a weekly reflection on leadership written by the First Gentleman of Michigan, Daniel Granholm Mulhern. It is available free of charge to all who desire to lead better. To learn more about the First Gentleman's service to the State and subscribe to RFL or read previous messages visit <http://michigan.gov/firstgentleman/>.

RESOLVE TO BE READY IN 2005

Nearly half of all American adults make one or more New Year's resolutions every year, including quitting smoking, losing weight or committing to an exercise program. Unfortunately, many Americans have difficulty keeping their resolution due to lack of time or motivation. This year, as part of its successful Ready campaign, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is encouraging citizens to make a New Year's resolution that is easy to keep – creating their own family emergency plan. It can benefit not only the person who makes the resolution, but also his or her entire family.

"The start of a new year is a time when many Americans are inclined to think about ways to make improvements for the future," said Secretary Tom Ridge. "Creating a family emergency plan is a great place to start. Families can create a plan that will allow them to know how best to communicate with one another in the event of an emergency. Log-on to www.Ready.gov and look for the 'Resolve to be Ready' icon. There, you can learn more about emergency preparedness and download a free family emergency plan template to help you get started. You and your family will be glad you did."

Last month, Homeland Security and the Ad Council unveiled the new Ready campaign public service

advertisements (PSAs). The PSAs, which have begun running, are designed to encourage people to develop a family emergency plan in case of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other emergency. The new television and radio advertisements feature children questioning parents about what to do during an emergency and are the second series of advertisements for the Ready campaign.

Launched in February 2003 by Homeland Security and the Ad Council, the Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower individuals to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. The goal of the campaign is to get Americans involved and, ultimately, to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation. Since its launch, more than 210 million people have seen or read about Ready and its website has received over 1.8 billion hits. Individuals interested in receiving a "Get Ready Now" brochure may call 1-800-BE-READY or visit www.Ready.gov for more information.

CIVIL DEFENSE IN THE CLASSROOM: A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHERS

The following is a reprint from the Michigan Department of Public Instruction 1/1/1955.

Chapter V: Objectives of Instruction in Civil defense
Facts and Concepts Students Will Need
We have seen that the activities, organizations, and ideas of civil defense have become, and may continue to be for an undetermined period, a part of our way of life. This places an obligation on us as teachers to help students acquire essential concepts and learn certain significant facts to equip them with appropriate knowledge and behavior patterns to meet emergency situations.

The extent to which any one of the concepts or any series of facts may be developed by the teacher will depend on at least three factors:

- The maturity of the students.
- The locality in which the students reside.
- The extent to which their interest is aroused.

Some contrasts between differing patterns for living are shown . . . below. MATURE STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY BOOKS WRITTEN IN SUPPORT OF BOTH SIDES-AND

SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE MANY DANGERS OF OVER-SIMPLIFICATION. Communism is one form of totalitarianism.

DEMOCRACY

- Democracy teaches that the state exists for the benefit of the individual.
- Democracy teaches that the most good for the greatest number shall be considered right, and that the individual may still make personal choices according to his individual conscience or his religious principles.
- Democracy believes in the right of all nations to determine their own systems of government and social development.
- Democracy believes that a Power greater than man has endowed him with "certain inalienable rights." It respects the right of each man to choose his own religious belief.

COMMUNISM

- Communism teaches that the individual is subordinate to the state; that nothing is important except the advancement and maintenance of this all-powerful state.
- Communism teaches that whatever contributes to the growth and supremacy of the state is right. Anything less is wrong.
- Communism believes that it must have world supremacy, even though that might involve slavery or obliteration for all remaining mankind.
- Communism teaches that the belief in a Divine Creator is an illusion, a false symbol, an "opiate of the people."

Just a casual perusal of these concepts shows how irreconcilable is the two opposing philosophies. We should develop instructional situations, which will give our students knowledge of the facts and an understanding acceptance of the concepts, which follow:

FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CIVIL DEFENSE INSTRUCTION

To offer a universal pattern for civil defense activities in the schools is neither feasible nor desirable; however, certain general principles may be suggested. They are as follows:

- Any attempt to orient and inform students with respect to the task of civil defense should be carried on within the existing curriculum.
- Civil defense activities should be recognized as essential to national welfare and compatible with the tenets of democracy.
- The teaching or practice of civil defense as a protective measure should be carried out with full and constant recognition of the worth of the individual and his right to self-determination insofar as is possible in times of national disaster or stress.
- Any instruction in the schools dealing with the matter of civil defense should be based upon the concept that emergencies are met most effectively in an atmosphere of calm and confidence. Consequently, students should be helped to accept fear as a component of readiness, a stimulant to preparedness, and a builder of individual and community confidence.
- In dealing with civil defense in the classroom, attention should be given to mental health, spiritual, emotional, and other pertinent implications.

The obligation to defend one's country against enemies is generally accepted. In the past largely the young men of the nation in our armed forces have carried the weight of that obligation. World War II was fought not only on battlefields and on the seas, but also in the laboratories and manufacturing plants. More civilians were involved in more ways than in any previous war. More lethal weapons were invented; new methods of warfare were developed. The result is that while previously destruction and death were largely limited to the military on the various "fronts", the rear has now become a most important and strategic "front." With the use of nuclear weapons, long distance aircraft, and guided missiles for delivering highly destructive weapons of war, the civilian population now finds itself in the front line of defense. Civilians are no longer non-combatants.

Part III: CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

[Each item to be checked as yes or no.]

- Principal encourages staff participation in community civil defense program.

- School civil defense activities support community program.
- Parents: are informed of new civil defense plans; are recruited for: panel discussions, debates, and plays.
- A bookshelf of civil defense publications is in the library for use of: students, teachers, and parents.
- Public is advised of equipment needed to bring school civil defense program up to standard.
- Promotion of civil defense program is effected through: informational leaflets taken home by pupils, school paper, inviting parents to observe school civil defense drills, parent participation in evacuation drills, panel discussion at PTA meetings, newspaper publicity, radio and television, posters in stores, church programs, veterans' and fraternal organizations, industry, civic associations and service clubs.
- School facilities are available for community civil defense: meetings and training classes.
- PTA is encouraged to form neighborhood civil defense units.

Michigan Dept. of Public Instruction, Civil Defense in the Classroom: A Handbook for Teachers (Lansing, MI: Michigan Dept. of Public Instruction, 1955)

(The preceding was to provide a past perspective and not intended to offend or influence anyone's views or opinions)

BSIR ROLLOUT SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JANUARY

At a November 30th meeting in Lansing, MSPCMD introduced the Department of Homeland Security's new Biannual Strategy Implementation Report (BSIR) to about 30 state and local emergency management representatives.

The BSIR is being rolled out as a standardized web-based tool that will facilitate the reporting of financial information to DHS – specifically to the State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) department of DHS. A secondary benefit of the tool is the ability of grants managers to work with their project data at virtually any time until it is submitted as a report. Initial reactions from several of the local coordinators were mixed. Some feel the new reporting system will represent a significant increase in workload at the local level. Others feel

the BSIR will consolidate work and make both financial reporting and grant management much easier in the long run.

Once available online, local programs will register on the web site and access the information they entered when they completed the Initial Strategy Implementation Program (ISIP). Each project they entered (including goals, solution areas and financial information) will be prepopulated in the BSIR. Program managers will then be able to report progress on those projects, as well as edit the projects (move money between projects, create or delete projects, etc.)

Program managers may use the BSIR for grant management activities at any time, but will be required to submit their reports (by clicking "Submit to State" twice each year. The first report will be due around February 21st.

Mark Wesley, MSP-EMD, will be coordinating a number of rollout workshops across the state over the next few weeks. District Coordinators will disseminate additional information as it becomes available. **PROGRAM AND GRANT ADMINISTRATORS MUST ATTEND THE WORKSHOP.**

RESOURCES:

Are You Ready?
www.ready.gov

FEMA Preparation and Prevention Virtual Library
<http://www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm>

Building A Disaster Resistant Neighborhood
<http://www.tallytown.com/redcross/drn.html>

CDC Emergency Training and Response
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training>

American Red Cross Community Disaster Materials
<http://www.redcross.org/pubs/dspubs/cde.html>

CERT: FAQ
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/certfaq.asp>

Take The CERT CHALLENGE!

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/certchallenge/instruction.htm>

CERT Resources

http://www.michigan.gov/mcsc/0,1607,7-137-6116_23782-103091--,00.html

For more information about Michigan Citizen Corps, contact the Program Director, Gary Zulinski at (517) 241-3867 or zulinskig@michigan.gov.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN HOMETOWN SECURITY

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety